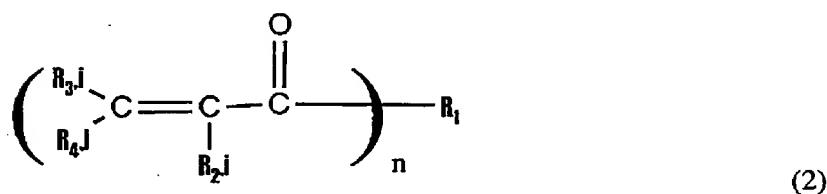


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IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 18, line 4, with the following:

Further, a second type of monomer or group of monomers is provided, generally as a crosslinking agent during the polymerization. Such a monomer is generally of the formula:



wherein $i=1 \rightarrow n$, and $n \geq 2$;

$\text{R}_{2,i}$, $\text{R}_{3,i}$, and $\text{R}_{4,i}$ may be independently selected from, but are not limited to, the group consisting of H, C, C2-C6 alkanes, C2-C6 alkenes, C2-C6 alkynes, aromatics, halogens, carboxylic acid derivatives, sulfates and nitrates;

R_1 may be selected from, but is not limited to, the group consisting of N, NR5, NH, O, and carboxylic-acid derivatives, wherein R5 may be selected from the group consisting of H, C, C2-C6 alkanes, C2-C6 alkenes, C2-C6 alkynes, and aromatics.